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FLASHBACK

Preserving the Past for the Future

Volume 50 February 2000 Number 1

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Washington County Historical Society

118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701

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Cover photo: Charles L. von Berg, expert scout, guide, and artist in the Old West, later resident of Fayetteville and first Boy Scout scoutmaster. (See article in this issue on pages 2-24.) *Photograph courtesy Ada Lee Shook/Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, Springdale.*

FLASHBACK

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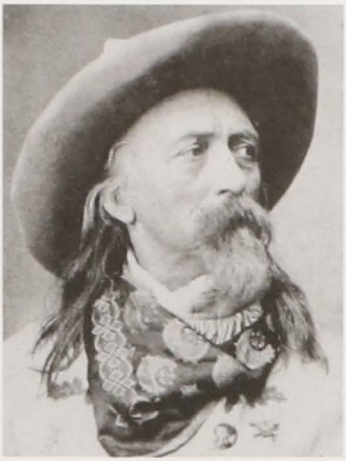
Captain Charles L. von Berg

The Most Colorful Character from Fayetteville's Early Twentieth Century

by Don E. Schaefer

Whether this native of the *Schwarzwald* (Black Forest) in Germany is known by his service as a private in the Union Army during the Civil War, his exploits as an Indian scout of the Old West, or his paintings of western scenes, he is endeared to the young men of this area as the scoutmaster of the first Boy Scout troop in Fayetteville, and one of the first in the United States.

Charles L. von Berg started the first Boy Scout troop (No. 1) in Fayetteville (maybe Arkansas) in 1911 and served as its scoutmaster until 1914. Some say he was still instrumental in the training of local scouts up until his death in 1918. The Boy Scouts of America were started in 1910. The early history of the Boy Scouts in Washington County was covered in "Boy Scouts of Washington, An Early and Incomplete Chronology" by Herman Napier in the last issue of *FLASHBACK*, Vol. 49, No. 4, Nov., 1999.



Capt. Charles L. von Berg is credited with starting Scouting in Washington County. ***Photo courtesy Washington County Historical Society/Shiloh Museum of Ozark History.***

This article is about von Berg himself, a colorful character who was featured in local and regional newspapers in Arkansas and the Midwest, but who turned down repeatedly offers to appear in public shows or movies. He was often visited at his home on East Mountain in Fayetteville by Indian chiefs and noted figures of the wild west.

Born in Baden, Germany

Carlos Ludwig von Berg was born in the *Schwarzwald*, Grand Duchy of Baden, October 18, 1835. He was christened in Karlsruhe. Carlos' father and those before him had been chief foresters for the rulers of the Grand Duchy for generations. This is the reason for the "von" in his name. They undoubtedly lived in the castle of the Duchy. A forester is a very important position even in present-day Germany, and to be a chief forester in the Black Forest at that time was an extremely important vocation—one to be passed on to following generations.

However, Carlos was born under a full moon, or *Jägermond* (hunter's moon). Because of this a midwife at the time was heard to remark, "He's going to be a wanderlust. Anyone born under the hunter's moon will be a wanderlust. He will never be a keeper of the Black Forest." He received many advantages of his father's position and his close ties to nobility, but the midwife's prediction was more far-reaching than anyone would have anticipated.

He learned to love the woods and the mountains from the trips he took with his father through the Black Forest. He learned many forestry lessons and the importance of all the living things in the forest—both plants and animals. Mountain climbing in the Alps taught him surefootedness and built up his stamina. Little did he know at that time that he was being prepared to deal with the wonderments and obstacles of nature on another continent thousands of miles away.

From his mother he learned at an early age both art and the love of reading. She described to him in detail "Holy Night" in a Dresden art gallery. Her description made this painting come alive for him and he told his mother that he would one day paint. She read bedtime stories that transported him to fantasies there and to other locations in the world.

Carlos was educated in Karlsruhe where an outstanding polytechnic school was located. The curriculum was quite varied for 150 years ago. He studied languages—including English—and mathematics, drawing, modeling, chemistry, mineralogy, geology, and mechanics. Military training was a part of his early education, too. After his schooling at Karlsruhe, Carlos entered the University of Heidelberg. But, he wasn't there long before the revolution that started the German Union began in 1848. Because of the recent memory of what the French Revolution did to their higher class of society, Carlos was called home and he, his family, and the whole Grand Duke's cortege fled to Switzerland. It was necessary for them to take the wheels off of their coach and float it across the Rhine, with his ailing mother inside. She later died in Switzerland.

When things settled, the family returned to Germany and Carlos was able to resume his studies in Heidelberg.

He Begins to Hear of Germans Going to America

He was beginning to learn about German families going to America. After a couple more of years of university study, he was able to convince his father to let him go to America with a group of friends and neighbors in the Duchy. Thus, the "wanderlust" Carlos von Berg left his home country and any possible pursuit of the vocation of a *Förster* (forester) in the Black Forest.

The route they took was back through Switzerland and then to Italy where they took a boat to New York. Before leaving Europe entirely, they stopped in Lisbon, Brest, and Cork to take on more immigrants.

Because of his youth, his education, and his upbringing, Carlos took to the voyage with great enthusiasm and he even engaged in "tall talk" with his fellow passengers, telling them things he knew about the new country ahead. Years later he told about an elderly German on the ship who told Carlos, "What I wouldn't give to be

your age! It's a young country. You will grow up with it. Just remember, lad, laugh when it hurts." He said he never forgot the man's advice. "Many a time when it looked like the Indians would take my scalp, I just laughed at 'em. Mind you, I was pumping lead into 'em at the same time."

They arrived in New York in October, 1854. He said it was a moving experience, even years before Ellis Island or the Statue of Liberty existed.

Carlos found a good job as a German tutor for a prominent man's son in New York City. He considered it only temporary until he saved enough money to start out west. While in New York he had made what might be a good contact with the Hudson's Bay Company, the large fur trading company.

Later, with money earned in New York, he found himself standing on the banks of the Mississippi River at Moline, Illinois, in the summer of 1855. He thought it looked much like the Rhine River back home. Shortly he was on his way to McGregor, Iowa, where there were a great many German-speaking people in the area. The fur trader he was expecting to meet in McGregor had moved on up to Fort Snelling (St. Paul, Minn.). He bargained for a canoe and started off on his own to Fort Snelling. From there on, as he paddled out of McGregor, he was no longer the young nobleman of a Duchy in Germany. He knew he had found his new home in the American wilderness. He began to call it the *ja* country.

He Starts in the Fur Trading Business

He found Jack Frazier, the half-breed fur trader he was seeking at Fort Snelling. At first Frazier was skeptical of von Berg's abilities in the wilderness after just coming over from Germany. When he found out, however, that he had traveled all the way from McGregor by himself, he hired him on the spot. Carlos was told that their fur trading base was at Fort Pembina where the Pembina

and Red Rivers meet at the northeast corner of North Dakota Territory. Canada was just north across the Red River from Minnesota. This particular fur trading center was set up in 1816 when John Jacob Astor of the American Fur Company got the U. S. Congress to restrict the issuance of fur traders' licenses to Americans.

Carlos was surprised to learn that Leipzig, in his native country, was the fur market of the world.

His Long Friendship With the Indians Begins

It was imperative that the fur traders get along with the Indians. Many traders used trading goods like blankets, trinkets, whiskey, or guns. Carlos von Berg tried something different. He painted pictures of the Indians. He had always wanted to paint, so he tried that angle, and it worked. He became very friendly with the Indians and learned many of their languages.

He learned much from the Indians and they learned from him. On one occasion there was an Indian baby boy who was sick and the medicine man was not able to help. Carlos asked the squaw if he could hold the baby. He then placed the little one on his shoulder and rocked him back and forth and sang a German lullaby. The baby burped and in a little while went to sleep. The Indians had to learn the lullaby because they thought the singing was what had cured the baby.

In May of 1861 Carlos took as his bride Bridget Mary Bird, a young lady he met on his first trip up the Mississippi in the summer of 1855. They made their home in McGregor, Iowa. That fall he left his new bride to answer the call to hunt with the Indians.

Each fall Carlos would go on hunts with the Sioux, but in 1862 the tension between the Sioux and the white men grew stronger. He became virtually a prisoner while on the hunt that year because they feared that he would tell the whites that the Indians were preparing to attack. He did manage to escape and give warning. Some white

settlers took him seriously and made it to the forts before the trouble began.

Carlos Becomes Private Louis von Berg

On August 20, 1862, Carlos von Berg was mustered into the Union Army at McGregor, Iowa. He anglicized his middle name and became C. Louis von Berg and was a private in Company D, 27th Regiment of the Iowa Infantry. They were headquartered at Camp Franklin, Dubuque, Iowa.

His first duty was to report immediately to Fort Snelling and the commander there, Colonel H. H. Sibley. Col. Sibley was someone who was a friend in his fur-trading days when Sibley was an agent for the American Fur Company. (Sibley became the first governor of Minnesota in 1858.) Upon his arrival Louis was told that the Sioux were on the warpath. This was no surprise to him because he had told them that nearly a year before. When he reported to Col. Sibley, he was ordered to look up Jack Frazier (his first contact in the fur business). Frazier had requested him because the two would be doing scout duty to locate the Sioux tribes.

Several tribes of the Sioux under Chief Little Crow had been reeking havoc among the white settlers in that area but had been repulsed at Fort Ridgely and New Ulm on a thrust to Fort Snelling. After finding that route to heavily defended, the Sioux started northwest devastating as they went, taking white women and children captive. It was at this point that he called on Jack Frazier to be his scout and Jack had requested help from this old friend who was now Private Louis von Berg.

Von Berg's First Experience at Scouting

Jack and Louis got on the trail of the Sioux, and to the consternation of the Indians were able to sneak into their camp and demand to be taken to talk with Chief Little Crow. They knew Little Crow from past dealings and were able to talk with him over a peace pipe. They

were relieved to find out that it was only a portion of the Sioux Nation that Little Crow was leading on his rampage, but the Chief—their old friend—made threats of killing all his white captives if the whites did not retreat back to the east of the Mississippi River. Jack and Louis made similar threats. They promised to take the Chief's message back to Col. Sibley and asked Little Crow for an escort back across their lines, which he did.

Upon conferring with Col. Sibley, the three decided the best course of action was to advance on the Sioux immediately. The Sioux were defeated and finally surrendered at Wood Lake in late September, 1862. The white settlers were freed and returned to their families. Although this portion of the Sioux were defeated at that time, this continued to smolder and became the fire that ignited the Sioux Wars that lasted until 1891.

The Enemy Shifts From the Sioux to the Confederates

It was not long before the 27th Iowa Regiment was ordered to Cairo, Illinois, where Louis (by then a corporal) got to see the Mississippi River wider and muddier than his visits on the northern part of that big stream.

On Nov. 20, 1862, they went to Memphis and were integrated into General Grant's Army. From there to the end of the war, most of Regiment's time was spent on the Mississippi River or its tributaries. They were in Memphis, Waterford, Miss., Helena, Little Rock, DeValls Bluff, Vicksburg, Meridian, Greenville—all the time with little engagement with the enemy. They still suffered 25% casualties—because of sickness.

On September 29, 1863, von Berg was requested to be reduced back to private, for reasons unknown, and he remained a private until he was mustered out.

The Red River Campaign changed this lack of action. It might have been a disaster for General Banks' troops if it had not been for the 27th Iowa, many of whom were German immigrants like Louis. On rear guard duty, the

27th fought more like they were advancing, than covering a hasty retreat. One soldier in gray (who was taken prisoner) said, "We had those damnyankees on the run, more ways than a country boy can whip a mule. Had 'em jumping in bayous like catfish on a line. Then up jumped a rear guard of jabbering Germans who evidently didn't understand English and like boll weevils they came, running us back to our artillery."

General Banks was later highly criticized for his leadership in the Red River Campaign, but the 27th saved his hide.

Louis von Berg's unit went back up the Mississippi to Cairo, spent time chasing General Sterling Price in Missouri, back to St. Louis, up the Ohio River to the Cumberland River to Nashville, over to Clinton on the Tennessee River, back down the Tennessee to the Ohio and Mississippi. At Eastport, Miss., he was granted a 30-day leave to see his wife and sick child. Later he caught up with his unit at Dauphin Island, Alabama. His unit proceeded back up the Mississippi and ended up in Clinton, Iowa, where they were mustered out in August of 1865.

Tries New Life After Civil War

After leaving his service in the Union Army, Carlos Ludwig von Berg (Louis von Berg in the army) returned to his family in McGregor, Iowa. He anglicized his name still further and became Charles L. von Berg—Charlie Berg for short with most of his friends. In arguments with his wife, she pleads with him not to return to the "stinking fur business." He tries running a store in Waterloo, but finds he is not cut out for the business life.

He then turns his mind to finding land, and he looks west to beautiful country he remembered from his previous wanderings. Out from Le Mars, Iowa, he homesteaded 181.78 acres, built a house, and moved his family to the new home. It took longer to find out that farming,

Von Berg with Sioux chief Little Wolf, Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota. Little Wolf took part in Custer's massacre. Standing between the men is Little Kula, the chief's daughter. The girl's bridalcape contains 170 elk teeth. *Photo courtest Edward H. Moran/Mrs. Neil Compton/Shiloh Museum of Ozark History.*

too, was not his life. It did not help that he had a drought one year and a plague of grasshoppers the next.

Following, what happened to this wanderlust, Charlie von Berg, set the stage for his real vocation. He heard, while on a trip to Sioux City, that some rich people needed a guide to hunt buffaloes. He took them on a trip that proved to be a great success. He saw this as an opportunity to guide hunters in the winter and farm during the farming season. Also, it could supplement an uncertain income from farming.

His first big party was Lord Dunraven from England. He took them on a deluxe buffalo hunt near Fort McPherson. On this trip Charlie was re-united with his old friend, Charley Reynolds.

Be Becomes Fast Friends With Buffalo Bill

Reynolds introduced him to a younger scout and hunter, William F. Cody—better known as "Buffalo Bill." They became fast friends, not only for their mutual interests, but because they could pass for twins.

Another member of the English nobility for him to guide was Lord Fenton. However, the one big plush hunt and von Berg likes to tell about is the one for the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia in 1872. It was under the auspices of the U.S. government, with General Sheridan taking personal charge. Gen. Custer was among the top army brass in the party. The hunting was done in the area of the North Platte in Nebraska. Buffalo Bill put on his very first Wild West Show for the Grand Duke as he directed Chief Spotted Tail and his warriors in an Indian buffalo hunt. On later hunts which von Berg guided, he told them, "Now, there won't be any carpets in the tents like it was for Grand Duke Alexis."

A few years later when Buffalo Bill started his Wild West Show in earnest, he tried to get his friend Charlie Berg to join him, but he said, "Bill, it's coming to a showdown with the Indians. I don't see how you can pull

out." But Cody claimed they wouldn't miss him, because von Berg, his "twin" would still be there fighting.

Charlie continued to mix guiding with farming and before planting time the next year, he took a job with the railroad. All these experiences helped convince von Berg, but not his wife, that his future was in the West.

In 1873 Charles von Berg was a scout under Gen. David Sloane Stanley when he led his expedition into the Yellowstone. Custer was also a member of this party. Gen. Stanley referred to "Captain" von Berg in his glowing review of the trip, and from here on his name will often be preceded by "Captain."

The year 1874 saw his old friend Charley Reynolds coming by to see him on a trip up the Missouri as scout for Gen. Custer on Custer's exploratory expedition into the Black Hills. He joked with Reynolds about the rumors of gold in the Black Hills. They noted that Custer's party included competent miners, giving credence to the trip's purpose not being just one of goodwill toward the Sioux.

The Experiences in the West Made Thrilling Stories

Captain Charles von Berg had many experiences in the wild west that were told time and again in the coming years. Many of these were told in Fayetteville where he used artifacts from his museum on East Mountain to help illustrate his personal tales.

The following was told to a writer for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* who published this in an October 7, 1917 edition:

> "Here," said Capt. von Berg to a visitor, pointing to a picture of a big black horse, "is 'Pawnee Billy,' the horse which for 30 years was my constant companion and faithful friend. Here is his tail" — and he held up a grotesque thing of long, black hair— "and here is the arrow with which he was shot from under me. I was riding with a trooper through the woods of Montana when four Sioux Indians suddenly sur-

Charles von Berg with Indian friend, How Kola. *Photo courtesy Washington County Historical Society/Shiloh Museum of* **Ozark History**

prised us. My friend was killed and Billy was shot through the neck, with the arrowhead on one side and the feathers on the other. But the four Sioux were felled with four shots from 'Old Betsy.' [Another account tells that von Berg pointed to the four scalps which were tied together by Sioux topknots.]

"This, continued the 'Old Scout,' "is the skin of a mountain lion. I killed it on that same trip before I lost Billy. I had been detailed as scout to carry a troop of soldiers from Fort Livingston to Fort McInnis, and when on the way Maj. Bell, who had charge of the soldiers, suggested that I take three or four troopers and kill an antelope, as we were in need of food.

"We were 100 miles from any settlement, but I directed Maj. Bell to follow a trail until a point 20 miles away was reached and to wait for me there. I then entered the woods with the troopers. I became lost from my companions and had proceeded some distance when I saw deer. Dismounting and leaving 'Billy' untied to graze, I concealed myself and waited. When the deer came within range of 'Betsy,' my gun, I easily killed two, and was running to where my game lay when I heard a loud noise behind me. At first I thought it was buffalo, disturbed by my shooting, but I saw it was a drove of wild horses, at least 200 of them, maddened brutes on a stampede, and that they had already cut me off from my horse.

"Wild horses always surround any domestic animal that may be in their way and carry it off with the drove. This they did with Billy, who seemed willing enough to forget our long association and return to the primitive state of his ancestors. I was 100 miles from a settlement, lost from my companions, afoot in a wild country. I followed the horses the best I could, vainly calling Billy by name, when I heard a

second noise, more terrifying than the first.

"I was directly in the path of a herd of a hundred or more charging steers. There was a rocky eminence in front of me. I made a desperate effort to reach it, clinging to 'Betsy,' although twice I tripped over her and fell headlong. I stumbled up the rocks, cutting my face and hands, but at last gained the top. In front of me the animals gathered in fury, heads down, feet pawing, or rearing up in determined effort to reach me. I clung to the rocks until I had regained my breath, then, picking out the steers on the far edge of the bunch, I fired eight times. Immediately the animals turned and charged the eight carcasses.

"I stayed on the rocks all night. I went to sleep and it was early dawn when I woke. The steers had disappeared and Billy was standing near me."

Another of Captain von Berg's western thrillers, told from personal experience, is on pp 64-65 of Paul Heerwagen's *Indian Scout, Western Painter.*

We'll let the Captain tell it. He was questioned about a bloodstain on the sleeve of his buckskin jacket. "That had to do with a love story. Yah!" and his eyes twinkled. "Your history books say the frontiersmen hold that the only good Indian was a dead Indian. They tell us also that the Sioux were a bloodthirsty people who took delight in lifting scalps regardless whether they were of men, women or children; that they had no feeling and were always cruel even among their own people. Just about the opposite is true. For I have seen the tenderness of a brave for his papoose or squaw. Their squaws were true to their mates, truer than some of us today.

"Take this stain now. That came from an incident during the war with the Sioux. I had been sent to scout the location of their forces. Five of us were

together. We usually scouted with fewer men. But General George Crook knew the enemy was near so he insisted that I take at least five with me in case trouble came our way. The Captain meditated a moment, 'As usual it did.'

"We were fired upon from ambush by one of the Sioux scouting parties. It was a small one and we soon routed them, but one of my scouts was wounded. Their party scattered and fled back toward their main force. We chased them but decided that since we had so few men we too had better fall back. As we retraced our gallops we found that one of their warriors had been wounded and apparently had lost his horse, as he was on foot. We decided to overtake him if possible as he might give us information if we could catch him. He was easy to trail in the buffalo grass for he was bleeding badly.

"Soon we saw another track also on foot come in contact with the warrior. We dismounted and read the signs. When the two met they had sat down and gone into a pow-wow. He had been joined by his squaw. Now there were two tracks instead of one.

"Presently we saw why they had changed directions. The wind began to blow crisply and we saw we were in for a norther. It could drop to several degrees below zero quickly. So we decided to find shelter.

"We scouts rode to a small stream which had a growth of cottonwoods and pitched camp. While three of my scouts gathered plenty of firewood to last us through the night, I doctored my wounded scout; a shot had just grazed his arm.

"The norther died out by sunup and left a clear cold. So we were able to take up the trail where we had left off. It wasn't long until we came to the end of their trail.

"As we approached we saw them lying in the grass

as they had huddled together the night before. They had frozen to death.

"His squaw had removed her robe and wrapped it around her wounded mate to keep him from freezing. Then she had placed her body as close to his as possible to help warm his dying body." The Captain paused evidently choking up, then he went on, "We five tough and rough men removed our hats as we stood there in the presence of such devotion."

There were many other hunts, battles, and stories. There was the Battle of Rosebud and then there was the duel between Captain von Berg and Chief Yellow Dog. The latter story has Chief Crazy Horse as a "second" for Yellow Dog and General George Crook acting in the same capacity for von Berg. It is a wonderful story and you can read it in Heerwagen's book, but suffice it to say that the Captain, also known as 'Eagletail,' was the victor, but he did not take Yellow Dog's scalp.

Then there is the time that General Crook sent Capt. von Berg on a mission to counsel with Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse regarding negotiations just before the all-out Sioux War.

Von Berg Arrived Late at the Little Big Horn

But none of the stories get quite the attention as the Old Scout's recollection of General Custer's massacre at the Little Big Horn on June 25, 1876. Here is what was written about this in the *Arkansas Gazette*, Nov. 1, 1964:

Captain von Berg relates, "The day of the massacre, I was enroute from General Terry to General Custer carrying a dispatch. Toward evening I noticed a lone Indian riding toward me. So I was ready for him. When he got closer he hailed me and I recognized him. He was one of the Crow scouts. 'Curley' some of us called him (his Indian name was Cola Wamba) was attached to General Custer. Sadly he told me what had happened. When he saw that every man

would be killed he grabbed up a Sioux blanket from a dead Sioux and disguised himself that way and made his way out of the carnage. Knowing Indians, I didn't ask 'Curley' to go back with me. But I increased my caution the rest of the way.

"I picked up two other scouts and we made our way to the scene of the battle. We looked over the battlefield trying to find the body of General Custer. I knew Crazy Horse was a great admirer of the general and I knew the respect which the Sioux held for 'Yellow Hair.' Yah! He was bareheaded. One side of the hair was matted with blood from a wound but his scalp was untouched. That was a high tribute of the Sioux's respect for a worthy enemy." The Captain bowed his head as he concluded, "All the other men had been scalped."

From Heerwagen's book, p 79-80, was this information about both von Berg's experience at the Little Big Horn and his painting ability.

"A significant discovery was made in the collection of paintings by Charles von Berg [which included a portrait of General Custer] in the archives of the University of Arkansas Museum. It is a portrait of an Indian. The details of the face are quite expressive. He is clad in breach cloth and moccasins with tops (like mukluks) holding his gun, wearing ammunition belt with revolver in holster, necklace and bracelet. In the distant background are snow clad mountains and lots of sky. In the foreground are a conifer forest, and to each side, a large boulder.

"No identification whatsoever on the painting.

"The discovery—and quite appropriately so—was made by the Historical Society of Montana, Miss Mary K. Dempsey. The writer had sent them a picture of this painting as it looked quite Montanaish, to see if they could identify the Indian.

This is a picture of "Curley" from a painting by Charles von Berg. It is from *Indian Scout, Western Painter* by Paul K. Herrwagen.

"Miss Dempsey sent back a copease copy of their photograph of 'Curley,' the lone survivor of Custer's Last Stand, and they said they could see 'quite a close resemblance' between the two.

"A second examination of this portrait revealed

no more than the first, until it was put under a special light which revealed in the lower right-hand corner under the buffalo grass in Captain von Berg's printing:

Curley
Lone Survivor of Custer's Massacre
June 25, 1876

"Doubtless this is the only painting of 'Curley,' the Crow Scout with Custer."

Captain von Berg's old friend, Charley Reynolds, was one of those killed at the Little Big Horn.

An Absentee Husband and Father

There was a lot of other scouting to do for the Army, but by the end of the 1870s, the Captain was again Charlie and be returned to his home in Le Mars, Iowa, evidently not a common occurrence.

He had four children—Little Charlie, born during the Civil War; Albert, born 1869; Bill; and Ann, born 1880. (Son Bill must have been born between Albert and Ann.) Perhaps their spacing indicates his trips home.

On his return home this time, he went back to his guide and hunting service. He went to Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and California. He did some work again for the Army, too. When the Apaches and Geronimo had to be rounded up in the Southwest, General Crook had von Berg with him. He continued his painting and his collection of wild plants and flowers, something extraordinary for a rough Indian fighter.

He also continued his close relationship with Buffalo Bill and visited his famous T.E. Ranch quite often. There was usually another good friend, William A. Bell, who von Berg and Cody jokingly gave the title of major. From then on, he was Major Bell to everyone.

Government regulations and barbed wire fences were putting an end to the big game hunts—and this was von Berg's business. There probably weren't very many buf-

falo left, either. Von Berg disappeared from the West and ended up in Arkansas. The "Wanderlust" had found still another place to call home. He had heard about it from some of the Iowa soldiers who had spent some time here during the war. The fact that the forested mountains reminded him of his Black Forest home in Germany may also have drawn him to northwest Arkansas

Captain von Berg Comes to Washington County

Charles L. von Berg, who had acquired the title of "Captain," and would always have it attached, appeared in Fayetteville in late 1887.

He explored the country on horseback and looked for the best land and fishing streams. In January of 1888 he bought an 80-acre ranch near Goshen.

None of his family, except for his son Bill, left Iowa and moved with him to Arkansas. The marriage was beginning to show some real strains.

Together Bill and his father ran the ranch together and did the cooking. They got to know each other well for the first time and really enjoyed pulling great pranks on one another.

Captain von Berg began looking for a wife. He started courting Martha Louisa Mayes, sometimes with the encouragement of her younger brother, John Mayes. A month after his divorce was granted, he and Martha married in April of 1889. She was known as Aunt Lou in her large family of Mayes. Charles von Berg did not turn out to be any better at ranching than he was at clerking a store or farming.

In the files this person is identified as Mrs. Charles von Berg. We assume she is Martha Mayes von Berg, his second wife. *Photo courtesy of Shiloh Museum of Ozark History.*

Bill and Aunt Lou ran the farm.

He did find something to his "calling," and became a whisky gauger for some of the legitimate stills in the area. Perhaps his drinking with Buffalo Bill and other cronies of the West gave him some degree of expertise with hard liquor.

Buffalo Bill and His Show Came to Fayetteville

Colonel "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his Wild West Show came to Fayetteville in September of 1898. Von Berg got to visit with many of his old friends and fellow scouts; some of them were Indians. And of course he got to see his old friend and "look-alike," Buffalo Bill. He told the Captain to bring his friends, that he had free reserved seats for all of them. There were over 100 men dressed in their U.S. Cavalry blue uniforms and many Indians in the show, all on horseback. Part of the show was what we now call a battle "re-enactment." It portrayed Custer's Last Stand at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Featured in the show were also Annie Oakley and Johnny Baker.

Between the afternoon and evening performances, Buffalo Bill went out to the von Berg Ranch and met Charlie's wife, Aunt Lou.

Moves to Fayetteville in 1904

Captain von Berg decided to move in to Fayetteville. He picked a nice spot on the western slope of East Mountain (now called Mt. Sequoyah). He built his "lodge" and in 1904 he moved there with his wife; his son Bill stayed at the ranch.

It was at this time that he started his long practice of blowing "taps" on his bugle at nine o'clock every evening. Each time it would be followed by an "a-a-a-men" on the bugle. He said he did this to honor the many who fought and were killed to give us the West.

He had a special room in his lodge for his museum. In this museum he had mementos, artifacts, trophies—all kinds of things to remind him of his life back in Germany,

his time in the Civil War, and his life in the Old West. Much of it served as props for the stories he was eager and willing to tell—stories that his Boy Scout troop heard time and again. Often his home was referred to as the Scout Lodge.

The "Old Scout" still painted while at his home on East Mountain and was inspired by the view from that mountain for some of them. He also painted many western scenes from his sharp memory.

Sometime after they moved into the lodge on East Mountain, Bill von Berg went back to Iowa.

In 1910 (the same year that the picture was made of the "Old Scout" in front of his lodge before he led the Memorial Day parade), he and Aunt Lou adopted a baby boy. He was named Jack Crawford von Berg.

Boy Scouts of America Started Here in 1911

It was not long after that when he became the first scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop No. 1, one of the oldest scout troops in America. And there was doubtless no other troop in the nation that could boast that their scoutmaster was a "Master Scout." He had the trophies, mementos, and stories to prove it!

Captain Charles L. von Berg in Fayetteville. *Photo courtesy Washington County Historical Society/Shiloh Museum of Ozark history/J. H. Field, photographer.*

Who better to teach the Scouts how to live in the wild, stalk and hunt game, and identify all the living

Captain Charles L. von Berg, at the Scout Lodge, Memorial Day, May 30, 1910—marshal of the parade in Fayetteville. ***Photo courtesy Mrs. Neil Compton/Shiloh Museum of Ozark History.***

things in the woods and mountains.

When Captain Carlos Ludwig von Berg died on March 6, 1918, the Boy Scouts, proteges of the "Old Scout," attended the service in a body in charge of Prof. J.L. Hancock, and marched in the procession to National Cemetery where he was buried.

[Readers interested in learning more about Charles L. von Berg are encouraged to read the book, *Indian Scout, Western Painter, Captain Charles L. von Berg* by Paul K. Heerwagen, published by Pioneer Press, Little Rock, Ark., 1969. Many of the accounts in this article were from the Heerwagen book. In addition, there is a large von Berg Collection in the University of Arkansas Museum, and there is a Charles von Berg file in the Fayetteville Public Library.] ❖

MOUNTAIN TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS
The Dyers, Pleasants, Kidds, and Parks

by Forrest Dutton Poorman

What was the motive that compelled men with families to leave their homes in Tennessee and Virginia in the 1830s and 1840s and seek new places in Northwest Arkansas? After the decision was made and preparations completed, the actual journey by flat boat, wagon train and horseback had to be endured. Should they be admired or considered foolhardy? It would be interesting, years later, if we could ask them, "Would you make the move if the situation presented itself again?"

This is an account of four families whose destination was Mountain Township in northwest Arkansas. The general area had welcomed white settlers as early as 1827. The name Mountain Township appears in the U.S. census from 1830-1880. According to Goodspeed, in his history of northwest Arkansas, in August 1836, three judges, John Ferguson, Samuel Stevenson, and William Stirman were appointed to be in charge of the Township. However, it was divided in 1839 and the eastern half became West Fork Township. It was divided again in 1842, the southern part between the Illinois River, Cove Creek, and Lee's Creek becoming Cove Creek Township. The 1840 census enumerated 93 families living in Mountain Township. One description suggests that the area was about four miles cast of Boonsboro (Cane Hill).

The Dyer Family

Elisha and Polly (Mary) Townsley Dyer, with their children, Joel Sater and Nancy Emily, came to the area around 1834. They had accompanied Elisha's mother, Rebecca Dyer, and eight brothers and sisters on an arduous trip that brought them from North Carolina and Tennessee to Arkansas. Elisha was a farmer, so good land

was his objective. He purchased most of his acreage on Sulphur Creek in and around the village of Hubbard. The Dyer family remained on this farm until after the turn of the century. During that time, Francis Marion, William Perry, and Trephonia Adeline were born. Elisha participated in civic activities, serving on juries and assisting in other local matters. The County Court, on 12 April 1837, appointed him road overseer of the second district of the Cove Creek Road, beginning at the Sulphur Springs Road and terminating at the Mountain Township line. His name appeared on the 1866 Fayetteville tax list as a hotel keeper. The location of this hotel has not been determined. A biographical sketch of the Arkansas Dyers was published in *FLASHBACK*, Vol. 41, No. 4, Nov., 1991.

The Pleasants Family

It is believed that the Robert L. Pleasants family came from Goochland County, Virginia, to Mountain sometime between 1833 and 1834. In the 1830 Virginia census, the parents were listed with four girls and one boy. Robert, who was about 49 years old, was a teacher. Their daughter, Mary E., b. 1812, married Tandy Key Kidd 6 February 1833 in Goochland. It was after this event that Robert, his wife Damaris, the two younger daughters, and the son started their long journey westward to Arkansas. There are no records to indicate that Robert ever bought any land in this new country. It is thought that he continued his teaching career, probably in the small village of Hubbard. He was elected a trustee of school land for a term from 1846 to 1850. As was the practice in those days, we assume his home was provided by a member of the community. This might have been James Billingsley, for he owned many acres in T14N, R31W and in the 1840 census the Pleasants family was enumerated between two Billingsley families. Lucius Pleasants had a farm in S4, T14N, R31 but the father and son were not enumerated near each other.

Petitions from various landowners of Township 14N, Range 31W were presented to the County Court. On 13 April 1846, the court acknowledged the landowners wanted the 16th Section be sold. The Court appointed Robert L. Pleasants and John Robertson, two justices of the county, to hold an election at the residence of Tandy K. Kidd, in said township the second Saturday of June 1846. A Commissioner and three trustees were to be elected

Mountain Township seemed to have bad a problem with the election. On 10 October 1846, Tandy K. Kidd, represented by his lawyer B. W. Smithson, asked the court to deny the bonds of Lee C. Blakemore, Lonis Ruff, and Madison Sawyers as trustees of Township 14N, R31W. The Court agreed and another election was scheduled for the following December.

The young son, Lucius Cary Pleasants must have been a very capable young man. He was elected sheriff of Washington County in 1836 and served through 1840. He married Mary Jane but there is no record of where or when. Records do indicate that during his term of office, he conducted at least seven sales of land owned by William Duncan to satisfy debts.

In 1836, Lucius began to buy and sell land for his own use. On 26 March 1836, he bought 80 acres from James Stirman (E1/2, SW1/4, S4, T14N, 31W). In July of that same year, he bought city lot #12, block 28 in Fayetteville and on 11 March 1837, he and Mary Jane sold this lot to Matthew Hubbard. On 11 October 1836, he bought 40 acres from John Mattock and Ana B. Forest. This was in addition to his 80 acres which were just west of the village of Hogeye on the Illinois River.

L. C. Pleasants, David Walker, and B. W. Smithson were appointed commissioners by the County Court on 11 January 1837. They were to secure a place on the Square in Fayetteville and see that a building 16 by 18 feet in the

clear, one story high of good workmanship, suitable for the Clerk's office was constructed. They were to take the money from the county treasury and were to see that the construction was done as soon as convenient.

While accumulating land, Lucius also invested in slaves. In the 1840 census, he and Mary Jane had no family but had eight slaves. By the Fall of 1841, for some unknown reason, Lucius negotiated a loan of $1450 from the Bank of Fayetteville. Why he needed this money has not been determined. In a very lengthy legal document, all the rules and regulations were spelled out. W. M. Coats and Samuel B. Campbell were named as "securities." However, Tandy K. Kidd, Lucius' brother-in-law, signed the papers to protect Coats and Campbell from any loss by agreeing to sell and distribute the proceeds of the sale of the collateral listed by Lucius.

The possessions of an individual, listed as collateral, often helps to know and understand these pioneer families. While Lucius did not place his home as security, his other possessions indicated he was a farmer and maintained slaves to help with the work. The following were listed as his collateral: slaves Rachel Edmond, Jackson Williams, Jacob and Isaac, and slave girl Lou Ann. Other possessions were: 1 roan gelding, 2 gray geldings, 1 bay mare, 1 gray colt (2 years old), 2 yokes of oxen, 3 milk cows, 2 heifers, farm tools and utensils, 3 beds, bedsteads, furniture, 1 sideboard, 1 dining table, 18 chairs and all kitchen and house furniture. He was very sure that he could pay back the loan or he must have had a very serious need for the money to risk just about every thing they owned. If the slaves were sold to meet this debt, $1800 must be paid to Alfred Wallace.

No record has been found to indicate if Lucius was able to repay this loan. A later census revealed that he and Mary had a son John, born in 1843. That is the last known fact about this young couple. Whether they died

or left the country, we do not know. By the 1850 census, their son John, age seven, was living with his grandparents, Robert L. and Damaris Pleasants.

One of the young Pleasants girls, who accompanied her parents to Washington County in 1833-1834, has been identified. Eudocia Jane Pleasants was born c1827 in Virginia. On 22 March 1848, she married Addison Crouch in Fayetteville, Ark. He was a wool carder. Their first son, Henry, was born in 1849. They continued to live in Fayetteville and by the 1860 census, their family also included Charles (9), Walter (7), Eddie (5), and William (3). In 1870, Clint (7), E. (5), Dora (3), and Alice (15) were enumerated with the family. However, Eudocia, 40 years old, was head of the household. Apparently Addison had died between 1867 and 1869. The interesting entry was that Eudocia's mother, Damaris Pleasants, 89 years old, was living with her. No census record could be found of Robert and Damaris after 1850. However, Robert did serve on a jury after 1860 and his name appears on an unofficial list of men in a Confederate Army unit.

The other Pleasant's daughter, Martha Henrietta, was two years older than Eudocia. In 1843 she married Lemuel G. Bassore. They lived in Fayetteville where he was a tailor. Their children were: Henrietta (1844), Margaret (1846), George R. (1847), William Joseph (1848), Damaris Eva (1852), and Susan (1853). By 1858 the family was living in Hogeye and Lemuel was the postmaster, a storekeeper and served as a Justice of the Peace. It is not known when Martha Henrietta died or where she was buried. However, by the end of the war, Lemuel and the children were living in Missouri.

By the 1860 census, the grandson John, 17 years old, was a farm laborer living with another family. It has been established that he had joined the Confederate Army with some cousins from Washington County. The

last account of him indicated that he had been very sick. Whether he survived his days in the army is not clear.

Additional information on the Pleasants family can be found in *FLASHBACK*, Vol. 40, No. 4, Nov., 1990, titled - "Unsung Heroes."

The Kidd Family

Undoubtedly it was the glowing descriptions of the advantages of Mountain Township sent by his in-laws, the Pleasants, that helped Tandy Kidd make up his mind to join them. It was the summer or early fall of 1840 that the Kidds finally arrived in Mountain Township. The family included Tandy, Mary E., and the children: Ophelia Ann, William Madison, and Lucius Pleasants. Purchasing land with good water was the first objective of this ambitious and energetic man. Within a short time he owned 400 acres on the Illinois River. The land was one to two miles east of Elisha Dyer's property. The village of Hubbard was just west, Hogeye was northeast and Bostonville was almost on the southern part of his land. Tandy served as postmaster of Bostonville in 1844. At one time a school was located just south of Hubbard. In January of 1847, Tandy received his license to have a Tavern and Dram Shop at his residence on the Van Buren Road. He would retail vinous and ardent spirits in quantities of less than a quart. This yearly license cost ten dollars and was approved by the County Court and issued by the treasurer. At this same court session, Tandy was awarded $1.20 for carrying the Poll Book of a special Congress election 24 miles.

Three more children—Frederick Mortimer, James Henry, and Mary Ellen were born to the Kidd Family. Tandy's first wife, Mary E., died 27 June 1847 following the birth of their daughter, Mary E. The mother was buried on the Kidd property, not far south of the family home.

On 30 October 1848, Tandy married his neighbor,

Nancy E. Dyer. In 1853, he sold the old homesite and acreage to John P. A. Parks. He then moved his family, including the children from his second marriage: Cornelius Howard, Margaret Isabelle, Tandy Lee, Laura Adeline, and Martha Clintonia, to Boonsboro, Cane Hill Township. Tandy prospered with a flour mill, saw mill, freighting business, a store and did extensive farming. He was killed by Joel Perry Parks over a business deal. Had Tandy been less ambitious and remained on his farm in Mountain, he probably would have had a long life with his family and they would not have suffered so many hardships. Additional Tandy Kidd accounts can be found in *FLASHBACK*, Vol. 39, No. 4, Nov., 1989; Vol. 40, No.4, Nov., 1990; and Vol. 44, Nos. 3 &4, Aug. & Nov. 1994.

The Parks Family

John Perry Aaron Parks was a late-comer, arriving in Mountain Township in 1853. He was accompanied by his wife, Mary Ann Hollabough, and children: Elizabeth Jane, William Bradley, Sarah Sophie, John Oscar, James Clay, Bird E., and Houston E. Later, Frances Camelia, and Levisa A. G. were born to the family in Arkansas.

A deed dated 26 December 1853 states that Tandy Kidd sold 400 acres to John P. A. Parks. The total mortgage was for $3000; but on the same day, Parks sold the property back to Tandy for $1500. There were two mortgages of $1000 each to be paid to Tandy. Apparently this was some type of financing that was agreeable to both men.

In January 1941, Adeline Blakely (colored) was interviewed by Virgin C. Erwin for the purpose of recording the memories of those who had lived in northwest Arkansas before and after the Civil War. Dates and ages seemed a little vague but descriptions of the life and times were very vivid. This was a WPA Project and the complete report can be found in the Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Library, Fayetteville.

Adeline and her mother accompanied their master

John Perry Aaron Parks and his family from Tennessee to Mountain Township, Washington County, Ark. They came by wagon, with several other families, bringing their negroes with them. It was difficult crossing rivers and making roads where only trails existed. She was one year old, making her birthday probably 10 July 1852. The Parks family moved to "the old Kidd Place," west of Prairie Grove. However, the site she was discussing probably was east of Prairie Grove. It was a nice two-story frame building painted white. Then it was a mansion. Nearly all the other houses were built of logs. Adeline was the personal slave to Elizabeth Parks, daughter of John P. A. Parks. Elizabeth married John Blakely and as was the custom in those days, Adeline took the family name. After the Civil War, and she was freed, she chose to stay with members of the Parks family.

An interesting history of this family can be found in *Washington County History*, a book prepared by the Shiloh Museum in Springdale. Ann Sugg, a descendant, mentioned that Parks and his family lived in a two-room dog-trot house. She also reported the Parks' house was enlarged as needed over the years and was still standing until the late 1980s. The Butterfield Overland Mail Line maintained a route through the property. John P. A. Parks served as station agent from 1858 to 1860. Their home also served as the station. When the old Parks Home was torn down about 1985, the new owners saved all of the original logs that were uncovered. It is reported that they were used to reconstruct the original house at an undisclosed site.

These Families Were Tied Together In Many Ways

Before the Parks joined this neighborhood, Tandy's wife bad died. Today's records show that Mrs. Mary E. Kidd is buried in the Parks Family Cemetery. She had died at least six years before the Parks came to Mountain. Undoubtedly her grave became the origin of the Parks

Cemetery, which is described in *Cemeteries of Washington County, Arkansas* prepared by the Northwest Genealogical Society. The cemetery was recorded in 1985 and was described as being "Located about 2 and 3/4 miles southwest of Hogeye and off Highway 265 to the east; S17, T14N, R32W. Cemetery is overgrown with weeds and the fence has fallen down." Since then the cemetery has been renovated by local descendants. The Parks home was located across the road from the cemetery.

Tandy speculated in land and soon owned many acres in and around Cane Hill. He had bought the old Truesdell Mill on Jordan Creek in 1847. It is assumed that when Mr. Parks bought the Mountain property, the Kidds moved to a new two-story frame house on a site south of Cane Hill and on the east side of Jordan Creek and the mill. There is a record that, in 1861, Charles Hauptman painted the Cane Hill home for the Kidds.

The relationship of these four families was further strengthened when Tandy Kidd married Elisha's daughter, Nancy Emily in 1848. Later Houston Parks, son of John P. A., married Tandy's daughter Laura Adeline. They named their sons Tandy McKee and James Clay. John Oscar, another son of John P.A., married Trephonia Adeline, daughter of Elisha Dyer, in 1868.

What was the fate of these pioneers who were neighbors and eventually kinfolks? Robert and Damaris were not enumerated in the Washington County census of 1860, nor were Elisha and Polly Dyer and his family. Were they missed by the census taker or did they prefer not to be included? Perhaps the prospect of the Civil War made many people apprehensive and they didn't trust the purpose of the census. Robert did serve on the Petit Jury panel in Washington County in 1867. Damaris Pleasants was enumerated with her daughter, Eudocia Jane Crouch in Fayetteville in 1870. Her obituary appeared in the *Fayetteville Democrat* 6 Dec 1873. It read in

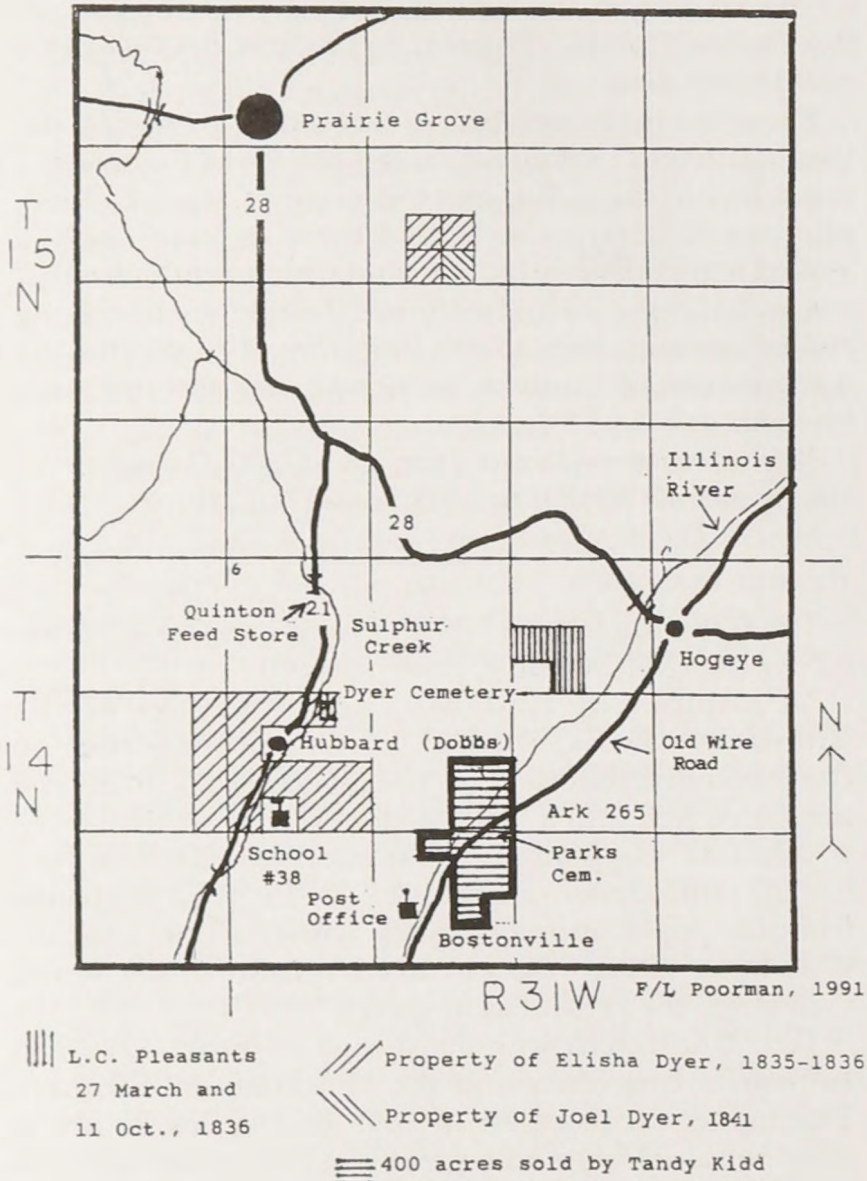
part, "Grandma Pleasants as she was called by all was one of our oldest and most respected citizens. She died as she had lived, a true Christian woman, beloved by all who knew her. Peace to her ashes." Lucius Cary and Mary Jane Pleasants last appeared in a legal paper from the Probate Court in 1843, the same year their son John was born. There is no information on the young couple after that date. However, it is possible Lucius Cary participated in the Mexican War. Young John was living with his grandparents in 1850 and as a 17-year-old farm laborer living with the John McPhenon Family in 1860. There is evidence that he served in the Confederate Army and perhaps did not survive the experience. Eudocia Jane Crouch's obituary appeared 20 March 1913 in the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat.* Having suffered a second stroke, she died in the home of her daughter, Dora Leigh. She was 88 years old. Eudocia was active in the Methodist Church and devoted much of her energies toward charity. She was buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Fayetteville.

Tandy Kidd was murdered on the street in Boonsboro in August 1862. The Civil War completely wiped out the vast wealth Tandy had accumulated. All but one of his children and most of his descendants have remained in northwest Arkansas. Elisha Dyer remained on his property in Mountain Township until he died in 1889 when he was 89 years old. John P. A. Parks died 20 April 1892 at the age of 84 and is buried in the Parks Cemetery.

A Visit To These Almost Forgotten Places

In May 1991, I visited the area and tried to pinpoint the site of the long forgotten village of Hubbard in the NW 1/4 of S7, T14N, R31W. Mr. and Mrs. A. Dobbs, who lived on the site, stood in their front yard and pointed down the small hill and to their right to where the old mill, store, school, blacksmith shop, and perhaps the

PART OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS, 1835-1860



post office stood. It is a lovely panorama. Sulphur Creek flows through a wide flat valley which is surrounded by rolling hills, as is most of this section of Washington County. Highway #21 follows the valley in a north-south direction.

The following November we succeeded in locating the Dyer Cemetery. When we visited the Parks Cemetery, I stood beside the well preserved grave of Mary E. Kidd, who was the first to be buried there in June 1847. I looked across the road to the land with a gentle rise that was probably the site of her home. I could see her young children coming over to visit her grave. I could also feel the presence of Tandy as he stood there and mourned his loss.

Written by Forrest Dutton Poorman (15300 Magnolia #55, Westminster, CA 92683) in 1993, revised in 1999. ❖

The following is from "Days of Auld Lang Syne," printed in *FLASHBACK* Vol. 4, June-July 1951:

"A number of students and professors of the University called at Dr. J. L. Buchanan's residence on Christmas Eve, following his resignation as President and presented him with a 'bronze clock of rare workmanship and beauty.' Its gold plate was inscribed: 'Thou art our friend, philosopher, and guide. To Dr. J. L. Buchanan from his pupils and colleagues, University of Arkansas, Christmas, 1901.' Cadet Alfred Wasson of the senior class made the presentation speech"

[Dr. Buchanan was president of both Arkansas Industrial University and the University of Arkansas. The name was changed in 1899 during his tenure as president. His time as president 100 years ago also occurred while the world and the University changed from the 19th to the 20th century.] ❖

Bethlehem Church

by Bob Keen

Washington County had its own Bethlehem even though there was no Savior born here, but our savior was praised and worshiped in the little Bethlehem Church in what was then Bethlehem Community. This community was on the banks of Fly Creek, where the Bethlehem Cemetery is now. The church set on what was then the main road from Vineyard to Cane Hill. The original church was a structure of logs built in 1827. In 1876 a frame church was built on the same site. Bethlehem Methodist M. E. Church was probably the first church organized in Washington County. According to the records of this church, it was in existence in April of 1827. This was approximately one year before the Canehill Presbyterian Church was established. In 1827 James Bankston was the pastor of Bethlehem Church. According to church records members came from the communities of Bethlehem, Vineyard, Dutch Mills, Cane Hill, and Sugar Hill.

Old Bethlehem Church was active in missions to the Indians. Two of the preachers who were especially active in the mission field were John Harrell and David B. Cummings. They built a Methodist camp ground, where Salem Springs is now. The name of that camp ground was Mountain Springs Methodist Camp ground. The first Methodist Conference in Washington County was held there September 12, 1833. The presiding bishop was Joshua Soule. In later years this campground was renamed Salem Springs. Around the 1840s a community sprang up around the campground, it was called Sexton, named after pioneer preacher Jacob Sexton.

The Bethlehem Church had many pioneer families as members, it also started a cemetery there on the north side of church. It is not know who was the first person

buried there was, but the first recorded burial was Jane Carnahan who died New Years Day, 1832. The next burial was the Pyeatt children in 1833 and 1834. Next was the Hayles family who were killed by Indians on what is known as Hale Mountain. The Hayles were killed in 1835 and are buried in Bethlehem cemetery. Benjamin Hayles' tombstone can still be read today, but Jacob's and Leah's stones have disappeared.

One of Bethlehem's most notable members was lay preacher Thomas Tennant, who joined the church in 1829. He had the distinction of being the oldest man ever to live in Washington County, and according to the London, England, Methodist Church records, he was the oldest Methodist preacher to ever live. He lived to be 114 years of age. He was also on the board of directors that built Bethesda Academy, which later became Bethesda School. Thomas Tennant died October 9, 1885, and his funeral was held in the Bethlehem Church with services conducted by Reverend George Morrow (the man who founded the town of Morrow, Ark.). Thomas Tennant is buried in the Bethlehem Cemetery.

The church survived a lot of tragedies including the Civil War; however, around the turn of the century, with the county being more populated, the little community of Bethlehem ceased to be. Between 1910 and 1912 the men of the church got together and with mules and skids under the building, cut a pathway and dragged the building to the town of Morrow. After the church was moved it was no longer known as Bethlehem Methodist Church and was renamed the Morrow Methodist Church. Here it continued to be a church until 1951; then the Methodist bought the Presbyterian Church of Morrow, and changed it to the Methodist Church of Morrow, where it is still in use today. Arville Loftin bought the old Bethlehem building and tore it down, then used the lumber to build his house on Hwy. 45 west

Old Bethlehem M.E. Church after it was moved to Morrow. Front row, left to right: Iona David, Marie Latta, Vena Reed, Eula Reed, Ethal Howard, teacher Emma Blake Talley. Middle row: Maggie Howard, Ethal Leach, Van Forbes, Gladys Reed. Back row: Herbert Talley, Ray Forbes, Owen Reed, Boyd Latta, Vernon Carmack, Lester David, Homer David.

of Clyde in 1953. The last entry of someone joining the church was C. W. Reed, November 7, 1910. Ren David married there in 1905 to Alice Pyeatt of Cane Hill. This was a three-couple wedding which included John Maples marrying a David girl and Henry David marrying Jenny Maloy. The last registered pastor was Charles Edwards who became pastor November 18, 1908. The Methodist were still holding camp meetings at Salem Springs until the 1940s. The town of Sexton died out because the railroad went through Oklahoma and the post office closed in 1903. Mr. Fields was the last postmaster.

The list of ministers for the Bethlehem Methodist Church are as follows: James Bankston - 1827, John Henry - 1828, Pleasant Tackett - 1832, John Harrell - 1831, A. M. Scott, A. P., Alvin Baird 1832, William G. Duke - 13 Sep 1833, H. G. Jafstin - 1834, John Harrell - 1835, William Bump - 1836, trustee Burwell Lee, Hirum Gering - 1837, stewart Jacob Chanler, Gerome Annis -

1838, Andrew Hunter - 1839, Jacob Custer - 1840, W. A. Cobb, A. P., William J. Anderson - 1841, trustee David B. Cum-mings, Steven P. Carlile - 1842, H.C. Boyers - 1843, John Harrell, trustee Alexander Avery - 1845, Thomas Stafford - 1846, Lewis S. Marshall - 1848, A. M. Morgan - 1849, Louis P. Lively - 1851, Young Ewing - 1852, Jordan Banks - 1854, John Mathes - 1855, Walter L. Thornberry - 1856, David Carithers - 1857, Lewis Woods - 1859, Jacob W. Shook - 1860, William Mathis - 1861, Thomas J. Smith - 1866, Henry T. Gregory - 1868, James Grant - 1869, Robert C. Atchley - 1870, David Sturdy - 1872, A. K. Miller - 1873, Gerome Harrelson - 1874, Richard Trydings - 1875, Theodore T. Brewer - 1876, S. H. Johnston - 1878, William J. Stone - 1879, Steven F. Dykes - 1881, Preston Hopkins - 1885, James A. Walden - 1886, trustees W. S. Pyeatt, G. F. Pyeatt, George T. Morrow, T. F. Tennant, J.R. Maxwell - 1890, J.H. Sturdy - 1892, John Clayton - 1894, James J. Holland - 1895, W. Hatfield - 1896, Y. A. Gilmore - 1897, J. P. Humpries - 1898, R. W. Lindsey - 1901, H. D. Hutcheson - 1902, stewart W. J. David, J. S. Hackles - 1904, trustee Fisk Pyeatt, J. B. Griffin - 1905, Charles Edwards - 1908.

MARRIAGES; P. C. Pyeatt, Cane Hill, to Henrietta Tennant, Bethlehem, married by Dykes, 1882.

Richard Smith to Cornelia Whinery, Sugarhill, by Dykes, 1882.

John G. Blake, Bethlehem, to Ann E. Evins, Bethlehem, by James Boyer, in 1869.

William S. Pyeatt to Mary M. Johnson, both of Bethlehem, by Gilbert Pyeatt, 1847.

Benjamin Blake to Oma Pyeatt, both of Bethlehem, by George Morrow, 1875

Thomas H. Tennant to Clarissa Slover, by Samuel Allen, 1844.

William McClure to Pauline Tennant, him from Missouri, her from Bethlehem, by Samuel Allen, 1850.

James Shelly to Caroline Johnson, by Samuel Allen, 1848.

__ Taylor to Bertie Lineberger, by Samuel Allen, 1848.

James H. Pyeatt to Martha J. Maxwell, Cane Hill, by Samuel Allen 1857

Samuel D. Murray to Mary S. Pyeatt, from Fannin Co., Texas, by W. D. Steele, 1859.

Henry Chafin to Catherine A. Pyeatt, by W. D. Steele, 1861

Samuel C. Pyeatt to Tucker, by W. D. Steele, 1861

Tabitha Bates of Sugar Hill to Dr. Winn.

Jane Carlile to William Tucker, 1844.

Samuel Blake to Martha J. Pyeatt, from Bethlehem, by Jacob Sexton, 1845.

George Seelee to Sinai Harriet Tennant, from Bethlehem, 1845.

John Cox to Margaret Witherspoon, Cane Hill and Bethlehem, witness Colemon Cox, 1845. (These two people were the author's great aunt's mother and father.)

Reverend P. B. Hopkins from Boonesbourough to Heber Blake from Bethlehem, 1886.

M. McFarland to Ester Briley, 1886.

George F. Pyeatt to Lorena Edminston, both of Bethlehem, 1883.

Robert Kinbrough, Dutch Mills, to Josephine Evans, Bethlehem, 1883.

Elbert Slover, Madison Co., to Elizabeth Lafferty, Reverend Mathis, 1849.

Reverend William Maples, to Elizabeth Slover, 1853.

B. F. Staggs to Elizabeth Maples, by Samuel Blake, 1869.

Jack Edminston to Fannie Pyeatt, 1870.

Ren David, Cane Hill, to Alice Pyeatt, Cane Hill, February, 1905.

John Maples to David, February, 1905.

Henry David to Jenny Maloy, February, 1905.

FUNERALS: Christeen Tennant, 10-1840, Reverend

Foster; Lucinda Hughs, Oct 1845; Mark Williams, 1844; Sally Pogue, 1844; Icyphena Pyeatt, 31 Jul 1852; Andrew Agnew -?; Samuel Blake 31 May 1878; Winnie J. Graham, 1862; John Ish, 1857; Ebenezer Miller, 1870; Mary M. Pyeatt, 20 Mar 1880; Winna Williams - 14 Apr 1871, by Rev. David B. Cummings; Elbert Williams, - ?; Thomas H. Tennant, 9 Oct 1885, by Rev. George Morrow; Nancy Burgess, Apr 1887; Sarah Chester, Jul 1852; Mary Alberty, Jul 1879, by Rev. Young Ewing; Mary S. Murray, Feb 1869; Elizabeth Carlile, 1852; W. S. Pyeatt, 25 Feb 1892, by Reverend J. R. Maxwell; C. J. Tennant - 29 Dec 1891, by Rev. J. R. Maxwell; Fannie Watson, Nov 1902, Rev. Poke Crozier; and Ira Williams, 22 Mar 1890.

MEMBERSHIP LIST - The list of members is in alphabetical order (and by year). 1831, Ira __?; 1831, Winnie Williams; 1840, Elijah Wilson; 1840; Albert Williams; 1841, Lucinda Wheeler; 1844, Mary Williams and Mark Williams; 1843, Margaret Weber and Sarah A. Weber; 1844, Eliza Jane Wheeler; 1843, Margaret Jane Witherspoon Cox; 1844, Mary A. Weber; 1845, George R. Weber; 1850, Sarah Whimey; 1871, Corneilia Whinrey Smith; 1877, Mary White; 1868, Jess Whittenburg.

1831, Thomas H. Tennant, lay preacher; 1831, Christeen Tennant; 1831, Harriet Tennant Seelee; 1831, James Tennant; 1840, Polina Tennant; 1840, Mary C. Tennant; 1840, John A. Tennant; 1841, William Tucker; 1841, Thomas Tennant; 1878, Henrietta J. Tennant Pyeatt; 1843, Clarrissa Tennant; 1889, Thomas S. Tennant; 1889, Tabitha Tennant; 1889, Emma D. Tennant; 1889, Annie Tennant..

1831, Obadiah Seay; 1831, Joseph Stout; 1840, Emily Seay; 1842, Thomas L. Howard; 1840 - James Shelly; 1840, Clarissa Slover; 1844, Harrison Stout; 1844, James W. Shipman, exhorter; 1848, A. E. Smith; 1869, Benjamin E. Staggs; 1869, J. E. Staggs.

1831, Elizabeth Reader; 1831, Elisha Robinson; 1831,

Sprey Robinson; 1839, Elizabeth Ross.

1831, Henry P. Pyeatt; 1831, Icyphena Pyeatt; 1831, Martha Pyeatt Blake; 1833, W. L. Pyeatt; 1838, Matthew A. Pyeatt; 1841, Theodocia Jane Peters; 1844, Sallie Pogue; 1844, John H. Pogue; 1845, James H. Pyeatt; 1845, Thomas Pogue; 1848, Mary S. Pyeatt Murrey; 1848, Samuel C. Pyeatt; 1850, Mary M. Pyeatt; 1867, Cate P. Pyeatt; 1869, George F. Pyeatt; 1874, Henry W. Pyeatt; 1882, Peter C. Pyeatt; 1884, William M. Pyeatt; 1884, Martha F. Parker; 1884, Elizabeth Parker; 1868, Fannie Pyeatt Edminston.

1843, Elizabeth Oxcndine; 1843, Charles Oxcndine; 1840, John Nunly.

1831, Ebenezer Miller; 1841, Drisa Manes; 1843, Thomas Maxwell; 1874, George Morrow; 1874, Cynthia Morrow; 1883, Austin L. Maples; 1883, Nancy C. Maples.

1837, Amos Linebarger; 1837, Lasaw Linebarger; 1837, Betty H. Linebarger Taylor; 1837, Franklin Linebarger, Michael Linebarger; 1840, John Linebarger; 1843, F. R. Linebarger; 1842, Harriet Linebarger; 1830, L. Lafferty; 1833, Elizabeth R. Lafferty Staggs.

1831, Nancy Kellum; 1840, Mary Kellum; 1844, Franklin Kirby; 1848, Sarah Kelly.

1837, Benjamin F. Johnson; 1837, Martha M. Johnson; 1840, Ona Johnson; 1840, Caroline Johnson Kelly; 1843, Nancy Johnson; 1843, Elizabeth A. Johnson; 1845, Thomas Jackson; 1845, Leatha Jackson; 1845, George R. Johnson, John R. Johnson; 1874, Felix J. Jobe.

1837, John Ish; 1845, Eliza Inks.

1831, Alan Hughs; 1831, Lucinda Hughes; 1837, Thomas Hardister; 1837, J. W. Hunter, lay preacher; 1837, Susan Hunter; 1843, Mary L. Hughes; 1843, Sarah A. Hughes; 1844, John Hendrix; 1850, J. Hucle; 1850, Elizabeth Hucle; 1873, Paralee Hines; 1884, Amanda E. Houston.

1840, George Gibson; 1843, Sarah Gibson; 1845,

Thomas Green; 1845, Hester Green; 1838, Winey Graham; 1876, William Glenn; 1848, John Follen; 1845, Nancy Edwards.

1871, Josephine Evins Kinbrough; 1873, Ephraim N. Evins; 1873, Eulalia Evins Jackson; 1879, James L. Evins; 1879, Lorina Edminston Pyeatt.

1843, Jane Dillingham; 1843, Katherine Dillingham; 1848, Anjaline Dillingham; 1840, Sarah Douthit; 1842, Thomas Douthit.

1837, William Carlisle; 1837, Elizabeth Carlisle; 1837, Stewart Carlisle; 1837, Jane Carlisle Tucker; 1837, Benjamin Carnahan; 1837, Hopesthie Carnahan; 1837, Thomas Carlisle; 1837, Mary Carlisle; 1837, Jacob Chandler; 1837, Emily Chandler; 1840, Obidiah Chester; 1840, Sarah Chester; 1840, John Carlisle; 1840, Martha Carlisle; 1841, Hogin Couch; 1839, Bacterina Garver; 1840, James Carter; 1840, Mary Carter; 1845, William Carlisle; 1848, Thomas Carlisle; 1848, Charles Carlisle; 1848, William Carlisle; 1848, H. A. Carlisle; 1837, Ruharna Chandler; 1871, Mary L. Crozier.

1837, Russel Bates; 1837, Mary Bates; 1840, David Biggs; 1840, Martha Biggs; 1840, Tabitha Bates Winn; 1840, Nancy Bedford; 1843, Lewis Brittian; 1843, Thomas Burgess; 1843, Mary Burgess; 1845, Mary Bean; 1845, George Brown; 1844, Nancy Burgess; 1848, ___ Bishop; 1848, James Burgess; 1848, Louis Bolton; 1850, Samuel Blake; 1850, Amanda Bartlett; 1850, Davis Burrow; 1867, Kizzie M. Blake; 1867, Heber Blake Hopkins; 1869, Ann E. Blake; 1882, Robert Burgess; 1882, Sarah Burgess; 1884, Ester McFarland; 1885, J. O. Billimgly; 1885, A. C. Billingly; 1870, Emery E. Blake.

1837, Mary Agnew; 1840, Milton Allen; 1843, Phoeba Allen; 1844, Andrew Agnew; 1844, Sarah Alberty; 1840, Andrew Agnew Jr.; 1848, Elizabeth Anderson; 1848, Morciah Anderson; 1848, George B. Anderson; 1883, J.B. Mcalister; 1883, M. F. Mcalister; 1910, C. W. Reed. ❖

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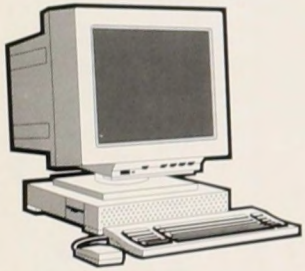

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